

PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON, TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1962

STATEMENT BY HONORABLE CARL VINSON, CHAIRMAN, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Yesterday, Honorable John A. McCone, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, gave a detailed presentation, in executive session, to the CIA Subcommittee of the House Committee on Armed Services on the subject of the U-2 incident and Francis Gary Powers, its pilot.

Since yesterday's meeting I have had the CIA prepare a detailed summary of the evidence which was given in executive session, and I now release that summary to the press.

While there has been much speculation in the press as to the final decision in this matter, some of which speculation was rather accurate, I am confident that this is the most detailed and accurate statement which has been released on this subject.

You will note from the statement that Francis Gary Powers has voluntarily subjected himself, over a considerable period of time, to a most intensive debriefing and interrogation by a wide variety of Government experts, and that his case has been completely reviewed by a Board of Inquiry presided over by Judge E. Barrett Prettyman.

In addition, he has voluntarily submitted to a polygraph, or lie detector, test. The net result of all of these interrogations and tests is the conclusion by the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency that Francis Gary Powers lived up to the terms of employment and instructions in connection with his mission and in his obligations as an American under the circumstances in which he found himself.

On the basis of all of the evidence presented to the CIA Subcommittee, and in fairness to Francis Gary Powers, I want to say that I concur in that judgment.